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Information

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1. [redacted] a Soviet travel agency would be established on Unter den Linden in East Berlin in spring 1955.
2. Recent Soviet experiences with members of the East German intelligentsia, artists, and so-called activists are reportedly so favorable that the Soviets intend to facilitate trips to the USSR. Although a journey to the Crimea or the Caucasus Mountains costs from 2,800 to 3,500 eastmarks, about 3,000 managers of industrial enterprises, journalists, professors, artists, and activists traveled to the USSR on their own initiative in 1954. These trips had to be approved by the East German Foreign Office. To encourage group travel, it is intended to lower travel expenses in order to make it possible for workers as well to go to the USSR.
3. The USSR allegedly intends to make its country more attractive to travellers from West Berlin and West Germany. The USSR is interested in visitors from West Germany not only for reasons of propaganda but for financial considerations as well, since foreign cash is urgently needed by the Soviets.

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